

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants note that the Examiner has again inadvertently failed to confirm the acceptability of the filed drawings. Accordingly, Applicants believe the filed drawings to be acceptable.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1, 3 and 9-11 are allowable over the art of record. By the current amendment, Applicants cancel, without prejudice, rejected claims 2 and 4-8, so that this application can be passed to issue. Cancellation of the claims should not be taken as agreeing to the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely as a desire to advance this application to issue. Accordingly, Applicants expressly reserve the right to submit similar type claims in another application.

In view of the cancellation of claims 2 and 4-8, Applicants submit that the grounds for the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 2 and 4-8 and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of claims 4, 6 and 7 have been rendered moot, and it is no longer necessary to respond to these rejections.

With regard to previously allowed claims 1, 3 and 9-11, Applicants have made minor revisions to the claims in order to place them in better U.S. patent form. Applicants submit that these revisions do not change the scope of the claims that the Examiner indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to re-confirm the allowability of claims 1, 3 and 9-11, and to pass the present application to issue.

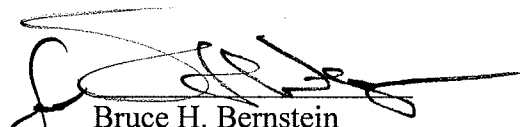
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have done so. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to confirm the allowability of the claims in this application.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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